

Spectator

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Langsam Asks Inquiry Into NSA

By Jeffrey Newman

CPYRGHT

David Langsam '67, president of the Columbia University Student Council, declared yesterday that the council would call for an investigation into the internal affairs of the National Student Association. His statement follows by one day the disclosure that the Central Intelligence Agency had been a major financial contributor to NSA from the early nineteen-fifties until last year.

"If such an investigation finds that the group is truly riddled with espionage elements," he stated, "then we'll call for its dissolution."

According to an article soon to appear in the March issue of Ramparts Magazine, the CIA not only made funds available to the student group, but directed intelligence activity within the organization. Langsam, a member of NSA's national supervisory board, said that he had learned yesterday from sources in the student group that the charges were "substantially true."

"We were furious to learn about

the widespread and cynical manipulation of a nationwide organization of idealistic students," he asserted. "There is no question that this is a scandal of major proportions."

Ironically, NSA has in recent years been considered a strongly liberal organization, one that has encompassed at least a part of the so-called "New Left" in student politics. Under the direction of NSA, one hundred campus leaders in September sent President Johnson a well-publicized letter expressing doubts and anxieties about United States policies in Vietnam.

The bulk of NSA activity has been directed at domestic programs covering such areas as academic freedom, civil rights, course evaluation, and student stress. It is in the group's international projects sphere that intelligence work is said to have been carried on.

Langsam said that the council would join with student governments at other schools in calling

for a Congressional investigation of the CIA and its relationship to "numerous other groups in America." He charged that the CIA may have infiltrated many other organizations that conduct at least part of their activities overseas.

"If NSA is involved, any group involved in international affairs may no doubt be compromised similarly," he said. "This is not to spread the guilt from NSA, but to show the threat to our domestic institutions."

Langsam said that he understood from his sources in the national student organization that "between two and four persons" may have been conducting intelligence work for NSA each year.

He added that he "he did not want to see NSA fall down," but that he hoped that the group would be able to restore its integrity and credibility as an independent student organization.

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